

THE ADVOCATE

June 2009

Why I Come To Work

by William Hoyle, Maintenance Mechanic

I'm **William Hoyle** and I am a Maintenance Mechanic at the Youth Services Center. I enjoy coming to work every day and handling my day to day responsibilities which involve resident safety, having a hazard free environment, and providing a clean and comfortable workplace for staff. I feel satisfied at the end of the day knowing that everyone is pleased with my work, and that youth have another role model to look up to and speak with when I complete projects on their units.

[\[View video*\]](#)



The Opening of New Beginnings



Mayor Adrian Fenty and Director Vincent Schiraldi holding the key to the former Oak Hill Youth Center. (Photo: David Y. Lee for Public Welfare Foundation)

On May 29, 2009, Mayor Adrian Fenty and Director Vincent Schiraldi opened the New Beginnings Youth Development Center, a new rehabilitative facility for committed DYRS youth. Although the celebration of the opening of the facility may have been cut short by the escape and safe return of a youth, it did not overshadow the closing of the old Oak Hill Youth Center, nor the hard work of staff to ensure the safety and security for both staff and youth. Many thanks to our Oak Hill/New Beginnings and administrative staff for a fantastic move to the facility, opening, and picnic!

Advising the United Nations

by Nicole Lee, Director of Advocacy Education, Maya Angelou Academy

DYRS youth spoke at Georgetown's Law Center, for the Campaign for U.S. Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and Georgetown Law's Juvenile Justice Clinic. The youth expressed an interest in allowing children the right to participate in juvenile delinquency proceedings. They also shared how ratifying the CRC can positively affect youth in the juvenile justice system and improve their lives. Watch them share their stories and presentations online. [\[View video*\]](#)



DYRS youth panel from the New Beginnings Youth Development Center, Yayah, Inc., and The Comfort House.

DYRS Youth win basketball game against DC Councilmembers

by Cecilia Jones, Program Support Assistant



Youth from the New Beginnings Youth Development Center played an exciting game against the team of Councilmember Tommy Wells and Councilmember Michael Brown. Both administrative and secure staff were present to cheer the boys on as they won 60 to 57, making them 3-2 against Councilmember Wells' teams. With such a positive outcome, DYRS will continue the basketball games to foster positive sportsmanship and youth development. Keep a lookout for upcoming announcements and team sign-up sheets!

From poetry to college—Oak Hill Academy Graduates

by Makuti Lee, Dean of Students, Maya Angelou Academy

Several young men shared their poems at the Flashpoint Gallery and received their diplomas at the Maya Angelou Public Charter School all in one week! The first-ever graduation ceremony for these young men had a powerful list of speakers and visitors. Ben Jealous, NAACP President, and Mayor Fenty were their keynote speakers. Oak Hill Academy graduates will begin college in the fall this year and others are attending vocational schools. We wish these young men the best of luck in their endeavors! Congratulations!

